

# EUROPEAN PATENT OFFICE

## Patent Abstracts of Japan

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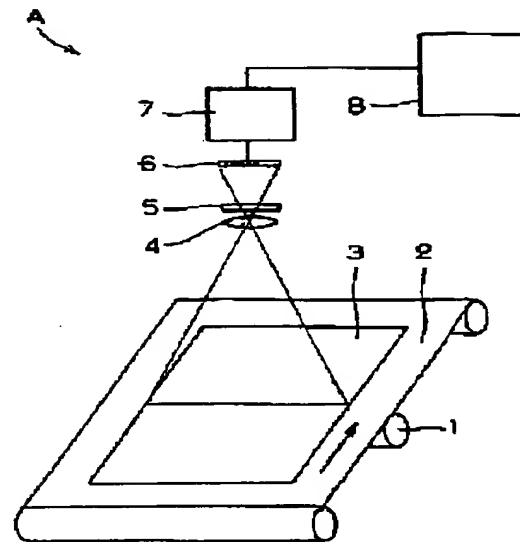
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TITLE : CYCLIC PATTERN-INSPECTING  
APPARATUS



ABSTRACT : PROBLEM TO BE SOLVED: To detect failures of cyclic patterns highly accurately.

SOLUTION: This apparatus A forms an image by an image formation lens 4 from a light emitting from an illumination light source 1 and passing through a shadow mask 3, detects the light at a photodetecting face of a line sensor 6, and inspects by an image-processing device 8 on the basis of the detecting amount of the light whether the shadow mask 3 is defective or not. At this time, the image is formed by the transmission light so that a distribution function of spot images on the photodetecting face is maximum centering an optical axis and monotonously decreased in a radial direction. In this constitution, cyclic noises caused by a pitch change of cyclic patterns are effectively reduced and failures of the cyclic patterns can be detected highly accurately.

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